

## REMARKS

The application has been editorially revised. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 9 have been amended. The application as amended contains claims 1-10. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Among other things, in claims 4 and 9, the term “-3Tw” has been changed to “-0.3Tw” to correct a typographical error. The correct term is supported by the original disclosure, page 21, line 5. Other changes to the claims are discussed below.

The abstract is objected to as exceeding 150 words. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The abstract has been amended as required.

Claims 3 and 7 are objected to as being informal. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The claims have been amended as suggested. The application as amended is believed to be in proper form.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Spruit in view of Yuzurihara. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

### Statement of Common Ownership

The present application and Yuzurihara were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, the same person, namely, Ricoh Company, Ltd.


Yuzurihara is prior art to the present application, if at all, only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), (f) or (g). Therefore, Yuzurihara is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), inasmuch as the present application and Yuzurihara were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, the same person, as noted above. Therefore, the rejection based on Spruit in view of Yuzurihara should be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Spruit in view of Yuzurihara, and further in view of Nakamura. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Yuzurihara is disqualified as prior art under § 103(c), as discussed above. Therefore, the rejection based on Spruit in view of Yuzurihara, and further in view of Nakamura should be withdrawn.

Allowance of the application is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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